

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please delete Figures 3D-3I originally presented along with the Amendment and Reply dated February 27, 2006.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve entry of the following formal drawings presented along with the Amendment and Reply dated February 27, 2006: Figures 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 1, 15-16, 22, 25, 29, and 32 have been amended, and Claims 6-8, 19-21, 28, and 30-31 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-4, 9-18, 22-27, 29, and 32-35 will be pending in the present application upon entry of this Amendment and Reply.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Drawings

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawing Figures 3D-3I under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a). Figures 3D-3I and paragraphs [0019A]-[0019F] have been deleted, and paragraph [0051] has been amended to delete the reference to Figures 3D-3I.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Claim 8 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Consideration and acceptance of the formal drawings submitted along with the Amendment and Reply dated February 27, 2006 (less Figures 3D-3I) is respectfully requested.

Specification

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a). Appropriate correction has been made, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

On pages 4-6 of the Office Action, Claims 1-4 and 6-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 1 as failing to comply with the written description requirement and under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete the language “having a size sufficient to accommodate an entire palm of a power tool user.”

Claim 15 has been amended to delete the language “having a size sufficient to accommodate the entire palm of a power tool user.”

Claim 25 has been amended to delete the language “configured to accommodate the entire palm of a power tool user.”

Claim 16 has been amended to correct a typographical error included therein such that it now recites “wherein the rotary cutting tool may be operated in a third mode of operation such that the second attachment is coupled to the housing.”

The Applicants submit that the amendments made to Claims 1, 15-16, and 25 are sufficient to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶¶ 1-2.

Allowable Subject Matter and Comment on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

On page 24 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 7-8, 21, and 31 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶¶ 1-2, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 8 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in Claims 6-7 and to delete the language “having a size sufficient to accommodate an entire palm of a power tool user.” Accordingly, Claim 1 and its corresponding dependent Claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in Claims 19-21 and to delete the language “having a size sufficient to accommodate the entire palm of a power tool user.” Accordingly, Claim 15 and its corresponding dependent Claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 25 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in Claims 28 and 30-31 and to delete the language “configured to accommodate the entire palm of a power tool user.” Accordingly, Claim 25 and its corresponding dependent Claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

While the Applicants agree that the claims indicated as being allowable recite a combination of subject matter that is patentable over the cited references, the Applicants do not necessarily agree with or acquiesce in any statement of reasons for allowance given by the Examiner. Moreover, the Applicants note that the recited subject matter as well as various other subject matter and/or combinations of subject matter may be patentable for other reasons than those given by the Examiner. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to set forth additional and/or alternative reasons for patentability and/or allowance with the present Application or in any other future proceeding or application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

On pages 6-24 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected various claims in view of various combinations of references. In view of the statement of the Examiner that the amendments made to Claims 1, 15, and 25 would place such claims (and their associated dependent claims) in condition for allowance, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 rejections.

* * *

It is submitted that each outstanding objection and rejection to the Application has been overcome, and that the Application is in a condition for allowance. The Applicants request consideration and allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 6/19/2006

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By  _____

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